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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Simonson, Rush E.
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/696,727
FILING DATE: 10/28/2003
FOR: Improved Vertebral Implants Adapted for Posterior Insertion

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 080083.00004

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicant is submitting this preliminary amendment to add additional claims to the application prior to first examination.

In the Claims:

11. (new) A surgical method for replacing damaged fibrocartilage between facing superior and inferior vertebrae in the lumbar region of a patient's spine, the patient having a posterior region, the superior vertebrae including an outer surface, a spinous process and an inferior articular process, the inferior vertebrae including an outer surface, a superior articular process and pedicals, the method being carried